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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 R

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R 070057Z JUL 78
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TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, PEPR, PGOV, SOCI, PINT, SCUL, KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.

1. AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN TO BE SWORN (UNCL)

PLANS ARE FAIRLY FIRM FOR AMBASSADOR GLEYSTEN TO BE
SWORN IN BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AT THE WHITE HOUSE
ON JULY 12. THE AMBASSADOR THEN DEPARTS JULY 13 FOR SEOUL,
STOPPING ONE DAY IN HONOLULU FOR CONSULTATION WITH CINCPAC.
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PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT PARK IS
TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR JULY 21. (RGR).

2. NORTH KOREANS RESPOND DEFENSIVELY TO SOUTH KOREAN
OFFER FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (LOU)

IN A LABORED EDITORIAL IN THE PARTY NEWS PAPER

JULY 1, THE NORTH KOREANS REJECTED PRESIDENT PARK'S JUNE 23 OFFER OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION ON THE GROUND THAT IT WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER MOVE TO DIVIDE THE COUNTRY. THE NORTH KOREANS ADMITTED THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAD SUGGESTED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BUT SAID THE ROK PROPOSAL COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED UNTIL ALL U.S. MILITARY WERE WITHDRAWN AND A NEW GOVERNMENT INSTALLED IN SEOUL WHICH ABANDONED THE PARK GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES.

ALTHOUGH WE HELD SCANT HOPE FOR THE NORTH'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL, THE INCIDENT IS PROBABLY A NET GAIN FOR THE ROKG. THE PETULANT TONE OF PYONGYANG'S REJECTION INDICATES THAT THE SOUTH'S INITIATIVE TOUCHED A SENSITIVE NERVE. (FM).

3. PRESIDENT PARK REELECTED (UNCL)

BY UNANIMOUS VOTE, WITH ONE INVALID BALLOT, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF UNIFICATION REELECTED PRESIDENT PARK JULY 6 TO ANOTHER SIX-YEAR TERM. OPENING THE CEREMONY, THE PRESIDENT GAVE A 12-MINUTE SPEECH IN WHICH HE VIGOROUSLY DEFENDED THE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION AS THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS AND CALLED FOR INCREASED NATIONAL STRENGTH TO FRUSTRATE THE COMMUNISTS AND ACHIEVE PEACEFUL UNIFICATION. THE LOCAL SITUATION ON ELECTION DAY WAS CALM. EMBASSY SEOUL REPORTED THAT POLICE PRE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAUTIONARY MEASURES WERE INTENSE, WITH PERHAPS AS MANY AS 70 DISSIDENTS REQUIRED TO REMAIN AT HOME TEMPORARILY. (FM) -

4. SEOUL APARTMENT SCANDAL HITS ROKG OFFICIALS (LOU)

THE BLUE HOUSE CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD RUMORS BY ANNOUNCING THAT A REPORT HAD REACHED THE PRESIDENT DETAILING LARGESCALE REAL ESTATE MANIPULATIONS INVOLVING HYUNDAI'S SUBSIDIARY CONSTRUCTION FIRM AND POSSIBLY ALMOST 200 ROKG OFFICIALS. SOME NAMES (INCLUDING SIX NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN) HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE PRESS, AND SOME SOURCES INDICATE ONE OR TWO CURRENT CABINET MEMBERS MAY BE IMPLICATED LATER. HYUNDAI HAD RECEIVED ROKG APPROVAL TO SELL NEWLYCONSTRUCTED LUXURY APARTMENTS TO ITS EMPLOYEES WITHOUT OPEN BIDDING, BUT AS MANY AS 650 UNITS WERE SOLD TO OTHERS (INCLUDING ROKG OFFICIALS) WELL BELOW CURRENT MARKET RATES. IN SOME CASES, RECIPIENTS OF HYUNDAI'S LARGESSE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF SEOUL'S ACUTE HOUSING SHORTAGE IMMEDIATELY TO RESELL THE UNITS AT HANDSOME PROFITS. HOUSING SPECULATION HAS BEEN A MAJOR ISSUE IN KOREA FOR MONTHS, AND THIS DISCLOSURE HAS

PROVIDED THE OPPOSITION WITH A POWERFUL ISSUE ON WHICH TO TAKE THE GOVERNMENT TO TASK. THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN INVESTIGATIVE AND AUDIT ORGANIZATION SURFACED THE SCANDAL, HOWEVER, AUGURS WELL FOR THE MATURITY OF ROKG INSTITUTIONS. (RGR)

5. TABLE TENNIS DEVELOPMENTS (LOU)

FOLLOWING A VISIT TO PYONGYANG, THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION (ITTF) ANNOUNCED IN TOKYO THAT ALL COUNTRIES WISHING TO SEND TEAMS TO THE 1979 CHAMPIONSHIP COULD DO SO. THE JAPANESE PRESS TRANSLATED THESE REMARKS INTO AN "INVITATION" TO THE ROK AND THE SPECULATION TOOK OFF FROM THERE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE YOMIURI WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT EVEN ASKED IF THE U.S. WOULD PRESSURE THE ROK TO ATTEND. AS IT TURNS OUT, THE ROK PING PONG OFFICIALS NOW HAVE A PACKAGE OF MATERIAL FROM THE ITTF ON HOW TO APPLY, BUT THE PROOF WILL BE IN THE ACTUAL NORTH KOREAN ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO THE TEAM -- AND THEIR SAFE RETURN HOME. (FM)

6. FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS RESCHEDULED (UNCL)

THE NEXT ROUND OF PUBLIC HEARINGS BY THE FRASER KOREA INVESTIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY POSTPONED TO JULY 26-27 AND AUGUST 2. THESE HEARINGS ARE TO BE IN THE FORMAT OF A PANEL DISCUSSION OF US ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE ROK. PANELISTS MAY INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM AID, PM, DEFENSE AND FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF US/ROK RELATIONS. (WH)

7. NORTH KOREAN FISHERMEN RETURNED (UNCL)

THE FOUR FISHERMEN WHO ELECTED TO RETURN TO NORTH KOREA AFTER THEIR BOAT COLLIDED WITH A ROK DESTROYER OFF ONE OF THE NORTHWEST ISLANDS LAST WEEK WERE TURNED OVER TO THE NORTH KOREAN SIDE AT PANMUNJOM JULY 3. AFTER CROSSING THE MILITARY DEMARCATION LINE, THE MEN FOLLOWED PRECEDENT AND STRIPPED TO THEIR SHORTS IN ORDER TO FLING THEIR CLOTHES BACK TO THEIR SOUTH KOREAN HOSTS. ONE FISHERMAN CHOSE TO REMAIN IN THE ROK. (FM)

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE171098
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCM
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780278-0920
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780785/aaaactpc.tel
Line Count: 166
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5536479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2085296
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - KOREA TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE FROM: EA/K - ROBERT G. RICH, JR.
TAGS: OVIP, PDIP, PEPR, PGOV, SOCI, PINT, SCUL, KS, KN, US
To: EA POSTS USS HAROLD HOLT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5536479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014